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## **Legislators Demand an End to Judicial Obstruction**

*State Leaders Call on Sens. Levin & Stabenow to Free the Michigan Four*

LANSING – Today in Lansing, legislative leaders called on U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow to stop their obstruction of the Michigan 4.

“Senators Levin and Stabenow declared in a written statement: ‘Holding open court seats for long periods of time for partisan reasons, until a president of the opposite political party is elected to fill those vacancies, poses a threat to the independence of our federal courts,’” state Senator Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, pointed out.

“I couldn’t agree more,” Cropsey said. “It is time to put away partisan politics and let these nominations go forward. It’s time for the Michigan 4 to have a vote before the full Senate.”

“Senators Levin and Stabenow need to represent the people of Michigan,” said Rep Howell, Chairman of the Michigan House Judiciary Committee. “Instead they are waging a political war, attempting to explain their position in grand terms. Enough is enough. They need to speak for Michigan and not their political interests. It’s time for these nominations to go to the full Senate for a vote.”

Senators Levin and Stabenow have blocked the Michigan 4, President Bush’s four nominees to the U.S. 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, for over a year. In July, the U.S. Senate decided to disregard Levin and Stabenow’s petty objections and began to consider the nominations. But today, at the request of Levin and Stabenow, the Senate Judiciary Committee has once again delayed a vote on Henry Saad’s nomination.

“Thanks to Levin and Stabenow, Michigan’s voice on this important court is at risk. The court is behind in its work. Justice is being denied to thousands of litigants across the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit. It’s time for Levin and Stabenow to stop taking advantage of the collegial nature of the Senate and the kindness of their colleagues and start getting to work for the people of Michigan. That Levin and Stabenow would risk Michigan’s voice on this court and imperil the smooth conduct of our justice system is totally irresponsible,” said Representative Craig DeRoche, sponsor of the Michigan House resolution.

The Michigan 4 nominees are Richard Griffin, Michigan Court of Appeals; David McKeague, U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan; Susan Bieke Neilson, Circuit Court, Wayne County, Michigan; and Henry Saad, Michigan Court of Appeals.

To date, the Senate Judiciary Committee has held hearings on the Saad nomination and is working on scheduling hearings on the McKeague nomination, but no other action has been taken.